



State Senator
Glenn Anderson

P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536



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BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIPS & HINTS

Helpful Hints to Keep Your Kids Healthy

Another school year has begun. After a carefree summer of being outside, traveling, and playing with friends, children are switching gears to a tighter schedule filled with studying and extracurricular activities.

Children need to know that their parents think their education is important. Decades of research have shown that, when parents are involved, students have better self-esteem, decreased use of drugs and alcohol, better grades and higher graduation rates. The most effective way to become engaged in your child's education is to help with learning activities at home. Visit www.ed.gov/parents for terrific resources to help parents become more involved in their child's education.

Here are some tips to keep your kids healthy as they get back in the swing of things this fall:

- Children who eat breakfast have an easier time concentrating during morning classes. If your child doesn't like to eat breakfast, consider offering their favorite snacks in the morning: leftover pizza, low-fat cheese sticks, smoothies, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, or granola bars.
- If you live near your child's school, organize a walking or biking group with other parents in the



Senator Anderson, with the cooperation of the Kiwanis, donated 1,000 books to students in Garden City and Westland to promote literacy and summer reading.

neighborhood. Walking or biking to school will help keep your child healthy and active. Make sure children stay in groups and wear helmets when biking.

- To avoid injury, a child should not carry a backpack that weighs more than 10-20% of their body weight. If you notice your child is bringing a lot of books home, consider getting him or her a rolling backpack.
- Children are easily tempted by snack and pop machines in school hallways. If your child's school has pop machines, talk to the principal about providing healthier choices like water or 100% juice. Pack healthy snacks for your child to eat after school before sports practices.
- According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children over the age of two should spend no more than one to two hours of time per day in front of a TV or computer screen. Placing limits on your child's "screen time" is a good step toward preventing childhood obesity.

Back-to-School Safety Tips

- Teach your kids to obey all traffic signals and signs
- Make sure your kids wear a helmet if they're riding a bike
- Motorists - exercise a heightened awareness in and around school zones
- Drive 25 mph and stop for the double red flashing lights on school buses



FALL 2008

Glenn ANDERSON



STATE SENATOR

How To Contact Me



State Senator Glenn S. Anderson

Lansing Office

P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI
48909-7536

Phone

517-373-1707

Fax

517-373-3935

Toll-free

866-262-7306

E-mail

SenatorAnderson@
senate.mi.gov

Website

www.senate.mi.gov/
anderson

Dear Friend,

This newsletter is designed to provide you with a progress report on the state's budget, especially as it relates to the priorities that I continue to fight for on behalf of the citizens of Garden City, Livonia, Redford and Westland. I am pleased to share that my colleagues and I have addressed the state budget in a constructive and collaborative way to avoid any of the pitfalls that we encountered during last year's stalemate. We have negotiated and passed the vast majority of the 2008-2009 state budget, including funding for community health, education, and public safety services.

The difficult economic times faced by our state, as well as in our households, require that budgets be tightened and expenditures prioritized. In order to reach this goal, my colleagues and I engaged in lengthy negotiations and reached a series of compromises. Throughout this process, I strived to secure crucial funding for the vital programs and services that will ensure the growth of our communities and support the hardworking families that reside in them. A comprehensive plan that incorporates cuts and key government reforms while maintaining essential services remains the most effective approach in taking on the challenging times we face today. I will continue working diligently with my colleagues and the administration to keep our families safe and healthy and move Michigan's economy forward.

While representing you in Lansing, I am dedicated to maintaining an open line of communication. I continue to host monthly coffee hours, send regular E-newsletters and mailings like this, hold town hall meetings, and visit many of you at your homes.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you in the Michigan Senate. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Glenn S. Anderson
State Senator • 6th District

Keep Up To Date



Stay up to date with the latest information by visiting my website at www.senate.mi.gov/anderson. While you are there, sign up for my e-Newsletter by clicking on e-Newsletter Sign-Up on the left side of the home page and completing the short, easy form. Also, please take the time to complete the latest community survey to provide me with feedback on important issues being dealt with in Lansing.

BUDGET UPDATE

DLEG Budget Funds Innovative Worker Programs

The Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) budget will see an increase of \$86.1 million in 2008-2009. This includes \$15 million in state funds and \$50 million in federal funds for the No Worker Left Behind job training program, which I fought to secure throughout the budget negotiation process.



July 25, 2008, marked the one-year anniversary of the No Worker Left Behind program, an initiative launched to help Michigan workers obtain the college degree or job training necessary to get new, well-paying jobs. Just one year into the program, more

than 31,000 citizens have enrolled in training for new careers, 11,000 have completed their training, and 9,100 are waiting for their opportunity to enroll in the program. The approved increases will provide the resources to address the backlog and further expand the program.

The DLEG budget also includes a \$3.5 million increase to the Michigan Nursing Corps program, bringing the total to \$5 million for 2009. This funding will provide additional nursing faculty to help increase the supply of Registered Nurses and ultimately address Michigan's nursing shortage. Michigan is currently expecting a shortage of 7,000 RNs by 2010 and an even larger shortage of 18,000 RNs come 2015. These efforts will not only create faculty jobs, but will also improve overall health care availability in Michigan.

For more information on No Worker Left Behind, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/nwlb>. To begin the application process for No Worker Left Behind, visit your local Michigan Works! Office. To locate your nearest Michigan Works! Office, go to www.michiganworks.org or call **1-800-285-WORKS** (9675).

Senate Approves School Aid Budget, Secures Funding for Local Schools

On July 17, my colleagues in the State Senate and I voted to pass the School Aid budget, increasing per pupil funding to K-12 schools. The agreed upon increase in per pupil funding will be between \$56 and \$112 on a sliding scale that is based on existing funding to ensure that lower-funded schools receive the greatest increase.

Funding is based on the number of pupils in each school, and what was being spent locally before the passage of Proposal A, a sweeping reform of school financing that was adopted in 1994. The school aid fund's major revenue sources are sales and income taxes.

In addition to the per pupil funding increase, some highlights of the other programs approved as part of the School Aid Budget include:

- \$15 million for 21st Century Schools grants that will go to districts with less than 70% graduation rate for planning and startup of newly constructed or configured schools designed to instill a more interactive curriculum and reduce the dropout rate.
- \$10 million for Early Childhood programs, including \$5 million for the Early Childhood Investment Corporation and a \$5 million increase for school readiness programs.
- A \$1 million increase for Child and Adolescent Health Centers.

State Spending from State Resources

FY 2007-08 Year-To-Date Appropriations



Source: Senate Fiscal Agency

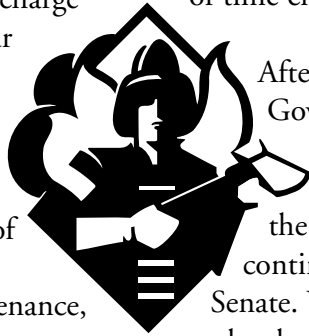
BUDGET UPDATE

Long-Awaited Increase in Local Revenue Sharing Will Strengthen Vital Public Services

During the ongoing and sometimes contentious budget process, I was proud to lead the charge for a statutory revenue sharing increase for our local communities, and I am pleased to share that we were able to secure a 2% increase with the passage of the 2008-2009 General Government budget. This represents the first increase in seven years and comes after years of cuts. It will provide crucial support for local police, firefighters, water systems, road maintenance, and other important services that keep our families and communities safe.

Since 2001, approximately \$3 billion in cuts to revenue sharing have resulted in 4,000 fewer police and firefighters in Michigan. At a time when public safety professionals are expected to provide consistent quality of service and safety, any further cuts to their budgets would be devastating to the communities they serve. The increase in public safety funding that will be provided through local revenue sharing will also help prevent

understaffing, diminish crime and decrease the amount of time citizens have to wait for emergency assistance.



After the Senate Majority had voted against the Governor's recommended 4% statutory revenue sharing increase, I attempted to restore this funding by introducing an amendment to the full Senate Appropriations Committee, and continued my efforts on the floor of the Michigan Senate. When these amendments were also opposed by the Senate Majority, I fought for a statutory revenue increase as the only Senate Democratic conferee on the General Government conference committee. After the Senate and House conference committee agreed to a 2% increase on July 23, 2008, the House and Senate approved the increase with the passage of the General Government budget.



With a 2% increase in local revenue sharing, our communities will be better able to provide the vital services we rely on every day.

\$74 Million Redford Construction Project Receives Redevelopment Grant

I was pleased to join in the recent announcement that Southfield developer JNCC LLC, a partnership of Farmington Hills-based Triangle Development Co. and Southfield-based Jonna Construction, will use a state brownfield tax credit to build senior independent living units and multi-family condo units at the site of the old Catholic Central High School in Redford Township.

The redevelopment of existing sites into new and exciting mixed residential uses not only promotes our local economy, but is a wise use of our existing resources. This project will create new jobs in Redford Township and will also provide new housing opportunities for our valued senior citizens.

The new development, called Shamrock Village, will include 188 units of single-family housing, 150 senior independent living units and 20 multi-family condo units. The average unit price is estimated at \$165,000.

This \$74-million project will be constructed in six phases between 2008 and 2015, and will benefit from assistance provided by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

Shamrock Village is one of 19 economic development projects recently announced by the Governor. In all, they are expected to create and retain a total of 8,062 jobs. Michigan Brownfield Redevelopment programs provide incentives to invest in property that has been used for industrial, commercial or residential purposes and to keep that property in or return it to productive use.

I currently serve on the Department of Labor and Economic Growth Appropriations Subcommittee, which includes MSHDA, and the General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, which includes the MEDC.

Senator Anderson Offers FREE Movie for Veterans



With the cooperation of AMC Theaters of Livonia, I would like to invite you to a **Veterans Day Movie**. In recognition of your tremendous sacrifice and service to our nation, we are pleased to host a free screening of Clint Eastwood's film **"Flags of Our Fathers"** on Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 3:00 PM. This film will be shown at the Livonia AMC 20, located at 19500 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan 48152 (*North of 7 Mile*).

Tickets are limited and will be required upon entry. The film and concessions will be provided free of charge, courtesy of AMC Theaters of Livonia. Veterans may request their free tickets by contacting my office by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.mi.gov or toll-free by phone at **866-262-7306**. Limit 2 tickets per Veteran, please.